

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4668

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

ISLAMABAD 8249

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USMISSION PEKING

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3870

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI AND THE DEFENSE MINISTER ON SELF-RELIANCE

1. IN SPEECHES AT VARANASI AND BHADOHI IN THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH MARCH 13, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI SAID THAT SELF-RELIANCE WAS VITAL. MANY COUNTRIES, SHE REPORTEDLY CONTINUED, HAD CUT OFF ASSISTANCE DURING DIFFICULT TIMES FOR INDIA IN A BID TO PRESSURIZE IT, BUT INDIA HAD WITHSTOOD THE PRESSURE BECAUSE IT TRAVELLED A LONG WAY TOWARDS THE GOAL OF SELF-RELIANCE. SHE OBSERVED THAT INDIA WAS GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER EXTERNAL AID IT HAD RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH, SHE SAID, IT NEVER AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF ITS REQUIREMENTS.

2. ALSO PICKING UP THE THEME OF SELF-RELIANCE, DEFENSE MINISTER BANSI LAL, SPEAKING AT HISSAR (HARYANA STATE) MARCH 13 SAID THAT, IF INDIA WAS NOT TO BE PUSHED AROUND AND IF INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT TO BE RENDERED MEANINGLESS,
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"WE SHOULD LEARN TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET." WARNING

AGAINST COMPLACENCY, THE MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID: "LET
US NOT FORGET THAT WE HAVE ENEMIES ACROSS THE BORDER WHO
ARE ARMING THEMSELVES FEVERISHLY AND WHO WILL NOT HESITATE
TO STRIKE WHEN THEY FEEL THAT WE ARE DIVIDED OR WEAK...
WE MUST JOIN HANDS TO BUILD A NEW, UNITED AND STRONG INDIA,
CAPABLE OF DEFENDING ITSELF WITHOUT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE,
FEEDING ITSELF WITHOUT FOREIGN AID AND STANDING ON ITS OWN
FEET WITHOUT HAVING TO LOOK FOR SUPPORT ELSEWHERE."SCHNEIDER

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